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NEW ZEALAND LIBRARIES

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HOSPITAL LIBRARIES.

THE sentence with which Miss E. Kathleen Jones prefaces her book *Hospital Libraries* furnishes an admirable text for a number which is devoted partly to a consideration of the question of books in hospitals. The word "bibliotherapeutic" has on various occasions caused a few smiles. A little thought shows how very important books are in the cure of disease. As medical science has advanced, the psycho-somatic relationship has come more and more into prominence, and the effect of mental outlook in both health and sickness is gradually coming to be admitted as perhaps almost a dominant one. As Miss Jones points out elsewhere in her book, to give a patient who is suffering from a particular disease a book showing the general hopelessness of sufferers from the same disease would impede recovery. Similarly, a book showing a cure would be a help. These are extreme examples, but indicate the good and the harm that can be done by reading at times when one is physically inactive and often mentally far more active than usual.

Miss G. L. Jeffreys bears testimony in another part of this issue to the need for properly planned library service in hospitals. The next question is, whose is the responsibility? Obviously it is a social responsibility. For library purposes our communities split up into units which among them roughly cover the Dominion. Hospital Boards are not, however, library authorities. The problem to be considered is how the social responsibility towards those of our taxpayers, ratepayers, or whatever they are called, who are in hospital should be discharged in New Zealand. It is proposed that the Council of the Association should set up a Standing Committee on Hospital Libraries. Should the Council accede to this request, this is one of the problems with which it will have to occupy itself.

BRANCHES AND SECTIONS.

Auckland.

On Saturday, May 25, Miss Carnell addressed about 30 members of the Auckland Branch.

Miss Carnell opened her address with a plea for increased membership of the Association, and then announced as her main subject "the exciting topic of Library Examinations and how to get more of them." She discussed the disadvantages of the present reliance on English examinations, stressing the need for a more liberal syllabus better suited to New Zealand conditions. She considered such methods of training as locally conducted correspondence courses, summer-schools, part-time local lectures and exchanges. She also made the interesting suggestion that a handful of selected libraries might each employ a temporary student-assistant. This position would be open to librarians from other centres, each of whom would occupy it for a period of from 3 to 6 months.

In the varied discussion that followed several suggestions were put forward. These included the need for a more comprehensive intermediate examination course, the possibility of co-operating with Australian libraries, the sociological implications of library work and the need for a New Zealand library union.

The annual meeting of the Auckland Branch was held on Saturday, May 25th. The annual report was presented by the retiring secretary, Mr. E. B. Ellerm. Membership for the year was 28. Monthly general meetings were held, addresses being given by Mr. J. Barr, Mr. A. D. Cunningham, Mr. Martin-Smith, Miss A. E. Minchin, Mr. Mitchell of the Country Library Service and Miss Powell of the Surrey County Library Service. A Junior Forum was inaugurated and a short paper followed by a brief discussion was given at the beginning of each general meeting.

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Weekly instructional classes for the benefit of Library staffs were commenced. The course in elementary Cataloguing and Classification, conducted by Mrs. J. Monro, has just been completed, and this will be followed by courses in Reference work and General library routine to be given by Mr. D. H. Monro and Miss D. Haszard respectively. The establishment of a Hospital library service has been under consideration and Miss R. S. Palmer has furnished a comprehensive report to be considered by the incoming committee.

The following officers were elected for 1940: Chairman: Mr. D. H. Monro; Deputy-Chairman: Miss L. Dromgool; Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs. J. Monro; Committee: Misses D. Haszard, N. Nutting, R. S. Palmer and M. Peat. Messrs. J. Barr and A. D. Cunningham.

Otago.

"During the year," states the annual report, "the Branch gained 7 members and lost 4, making the total membership 24." Three general meetings have been held, in all of which the Branch has used the symposium form in preference to the lecture method. The first meeting studied the library in education; the second, aspects of the novel, and the third was a meeting arranged in order that the staff of the university and public libraries might meet Miss Carnell, the Liaison Officer. This meeting produced frank and lively discussion of staff training problems, salaries, the relation of the library assistant to the Association, and kindred topics.

Wellington.

In response to many requests from assistants in Wellington, the Wellington Branch has again organized a series of lectures in the subjects of the Elementary Examination of the Library Association, London. The Branch is indebted to Mr. Norrie for permission to hold these lectures at the Central Library. The first lecture was held on Thursday, May 16th, and subsequent lectures will be given at weekly intervals. The following have consented to lecture; Miss J. W. Rawson, M.A., F.L.A., "Methods of study," Miss C. O. Troup, B.A., A.L.A., "Cataloguing," Miss M. G. Campbell, M.A., F.L.A., "Classification," Miss A. Woodhouse and Mr. N. A. Byrne, M.A., Dip. Ed., "English Literary History," and Miss E. J. Carnell, F.L.A., "Library Administration."

About fifteen juniors are enthusiastically attending these lectures and it is very gratifying to find such keen interest displayed in the work.

The May meeting of the Branch was held at the Central Library on Wednesday, May 29th, when a social evening was enjoyed by all present.

The balance of an address to the Branch by Mr. J. O. Wilson, A.L.A., of the General Assembly Library staff is printed in this issue.

Schools' Section.

A meeting arranged by the Schools' Section of the Association was held at the Wellington East Girls' College on Wednesday, 8th May, at 1.45 p.m., as part of the programme of the Secondary School Teachers' Conference. Miss J. W. Rawson, M.A., F.L.A., presided and spoke briefly to those present on the ways in which the Association could assist school libraries. She referred to the articles which were being published in NEW ZEALAND LIBRARIES and which were to be amplified and co-ordinated into a Schools' Manual. She said that the committee responsible for this work would appreciate comments and criticism from teachers with regard to the articles. Miss K. E. Harvey spoke on the importance of the school library, its aims and functions, the duties of the school librarian, administration of the library and school library conditions in New Zealand:

1. *Importance.*—"School library service means for the *child* a new world of spiritual and intellectual adventure. It means for the *teacher* untold increase in resources and power. It means for the *school* a new atmosphere of learning, a new vision of things intellectual, and a unifying force of the highest significance. It means for the *home* new elements of common interest and the revival of reading aloud. It means for the *public library* a growing clientele of intelligent patrons. It means for *democracy* increasing vigour and security."

—*J. E. Morgan. The School Library Movement.*

2. *Aims.*—To provide collateral reference materials and to provide desirable recreational reading.

3. *Functions of the School Library*—

(*a*) To serve as a centralizing agency for the school.

(*b*) To enrich the curriculum by providing library service for pupils and teachers.

(*c*) To train pupils in the use of books and the library.

(*d*) To encourage the habit of reading for pleasure and to provide for the right use of leisure time.

(*e*) To serve teachers.

(*f*) To share with other departments of the school responsibility for fruitful social training.

4. *Duties of the school librarian*—

(*a*) Plan the library room.

(*b*) Prepare the Budget.

(*c*) Build up the book collection.

(*d*) Organise library materials, catalogue, classify, make lists.

(*e*) Guide reference and research workers.

(*f*) Establish an issue system.

(*g*) Keep statistical records.

(*h*) Prepare special exhibits and collections.

(*i*) Organize all routine work.

(*j*) Train student help.

(*k*) Train students in use of reference books and card catalogues.

(*l*) Guide reading of students by suggestion, lists, posters, browsing corners, brief talks.

Mr. L. B. Quartermain thanked the speakers for their remarks and asked the teachers not to leave all the work to the school librarian. All teachers could and should take an interest in the work of the school library.

GENERAL NEWS.

Librarian of Congress.

The supplement to *The Christian Science Monitor* for March 23, 1940, prints an illuminating article by Pearl Strachan on the subject of Dr. Archibald MacLeish, the recently appointed Librarian of Congress. Dr. Herbert Putnam, Dr. MacLeish's predecessor in office, spoke up for the President's choice because of the "facts" of MacLeish. Dr. Putnam said: "There is first the Scot in him—shrewd, austere, exacting, but humorous. There is the poet in him—whose stuff is not made of mere dreams but of realities . . . Then the humanist, keenly sympathetic to all that calls for social sympathy. The lawyer—trained to analysis through determination of exact issues. The soldier—pledged to duty under discipline. The athlete—pledged to fair play. And, finally, there's the orator—capable of vivid and forceful speech."

Dr. MacLeish has already taken the reins and has set up a committee under the distinguished chairmanship of Dr. Carleton B. Joeckel to examine and report upon the processing operations of the Library of Congress and to make recommendations for the establishment in that library of an in-service training course which will enable the library to offer internships to graduates of universities and of library schools. Dr. MacLeish is also asking that the committee recommend plans not only for recruiting personnel to fill positions available July 1, but for the continuation of training subsequent to such appointment and the training of those already in service.

The study of processing operations is to determine what procedures, techniques and administrative systems now in operation are faulty, and to propose changes for their correction.

Members of the investigating committee will include, in addition to Dr. Joeckel, Mr. Paul North Rice and Mr. Andrew D. Osborn.

Central Bureau for Library Book Imports.

Since the inception of the Central Bureau several points have arisen which require further explanation:

Book orders.

(1) It has been evident that most of the titles in the orders so far received have been of the type of which the library concerned needs definitely its own copy, hence annotation seemed superfluous. Libraries, when wishing to have information about possible duplication of titles being ordered are asked to *underline in pencil in copy C of their order* all titles which they would reconsider ordering if it were known that one copy was already on order or in New Zealand. This procedure will save time both at the Bureau and for the library itself. It will, it is hoped, save money, too. The Bureau is, however, very anxious to supply libraries at all times with such information as is in its power.

(2) When an order is being made out for English, American and foreign publications, it would be advisable if a new sheet were used for the publications from each country.

(3) Orders which are to be obtained from different sources should be typed on separate sheets.

(4) Several orders have been received by the Bureau for second-hand books. Where no second-hand price has been given, 66⅔ per cent. of the English published price has been taken as the price of the books.

(5) Libraries are asked to notify the Bureau when they receive information that books listed on their orders are unobtainable.

(6) Book orders may be arranged alphabetically by author, or alphabetically by author under publisher, whichever is the more convenient.

Periodicals.

The attention of libraries is drawn to the fact that recommendations for special licenses will not be made for fiction, periodicals or illustrated social papers, these being outside the scope of the Bureau.

Periodicals should be arranged alphabetically by title and published price should be given. English, American and foreign publications should be arranged in separate sequence under the agents to whom the order will be given. As in the case of book orders, separate orders should be made for each agent.

Accession lists.

Libraries producing accession lists are asked to send a copy of each list to the Central Bureau, or if no accession lists are available, copies of orders of non-fiction for which there was no need for an application for special license.

Christchurch.

The work of re-decorating the children's library, carried out by enthusiastic members of the staff, has progressed rapidly and the big room now bears a most attractive appearance. The backs of the book-cases have been finished in a light cream and the fronts and tops tinted with scarlet. The reading tables have been finished in the same shades. A new magazine rack has been constructed and this also has been enamelled to match the scheme.

The re-decoration of the book-cases in the adult library is gradually being accomplished, several members of the staff being responsible for this scheme. All the cases are being enamelled in a pleasing shade of cream. New electric light points have also been installed in a portion of the room.

The librarian, Mr. E. J. Bell, reports that the library is experiencing a busy period. Several former members have returned after spending a period with the local book clubs, and new members have been enrolled in goodly numbers. Book issues have increased and the many new books of non-fiction which the library has added during the past few months are giving general satisfaction.

Additions to Staff.

Mr. A. E. Mercer, formerly student assistant at Canterbury University College, has been appointed to the staff of the Country Library Service.

Leys Institute.

The 35th annual report of the Leys Institute traces the development of the Institute up to date. The report says: "Originating in the brain of William Leys, who as quite a small boy in Nottingham had appreciated the work that the Mechanics Institute of his town was doing for the rising generation, the Leys Institute has achieved many, if not all the ideals that inspired its founder. The sympathy of the late T. W. Leys with the vision of his brother, permitted the translation into being of the scheme outlined in the will of William Leys with little delay.

"In 1905 the Institute was opened by the then Mayor, Sir Edwin Mitchelson, and from that time onwards it has served the public of Ponsonby as a reference and lending library, and in addition has endeavoured to assist the young and develop their activities, both mental and physical, on sound lines. In this it has not only had the advantage of a succession of librarians who were devoted to their work; but also had the active assistance of many residents of the district, who, recognising the community value of the task that the Institute had undertaken, gave freely of their time to promote and further its objects."

The report records a general improvement in the number of subscribers and a decided improvement in the issue of books. At the beginning of last year the subscription to the juvenile department was still further reduced to the sum of 1/- per annum. As a consequence the roll of juvenile subscribers has been nearly trebled, with a corresponding issue of books.

Wanganui.

The 63rd annual report shows an increase in issues, an increase in the number of adult subscribers, and a substantial increase in the number of junior subscribers. The news of the young people's library is the highlight of the year. The City Council decided that from 2nd October, 1939, the Department should be free to children resident in the City and to those

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residing outside the boundary but whose parents are City ratepayers. It is hoped that in the near future the adjoining County Councils will subsidise the Department so that children attending City Schools but living outside the City may be admitted to free membership.

This attractive room with its coloured posters of New Zealand and overseas countries, French Red Cross posters, framed coloured Coronation Frieze, etc., has become the Mecca of hundreds of the boys and girls. The membership is in the transition stage; each month current subscriptions expire and application is made for free membership. In some cases children are using both subscription and free membership to which they are entitled.

The change-over on 2nd October was marked by a special function attended by members of the Library Committee, Heads of Schools, each with a number of pupils, and at which Mr. F. W. Gilligan, Headmaster of the Wanganui Collegiate School was the principal speaker. The Wanganui Education Board later wrote to the City Council commending its action, and stating that this was the most forward move of a decade in education.

Linwood.

This library has increased its hours of opening and is now open every afternoon from 2.30 to 4 p.m. instead of only on three afternoons per week. The subscription has been raised from six shillings and sixpence per annum to four shillings per half-year.

A book club for fiction only has been introduced: the entrance fee is one shilling and the fee for each book threepence. Although this is a recent innovation the results are already very encouraging. This library also reports increased issues generally.

Ashburton.

The Ashburton Borough Council has invited Mr. E. J. Bell, Librarian, Canterbury Public Library, to visit the library and discuss its future policy.

Wellington.

The report of the City Librarian, Mr. Joseph Norrie, surveys the work of the year, the principal event being of course the opening of the new Central Library building. A full section of the report is devoted to consideration of events leading up to the opening, and there is a good deal of descriptive matter about the building itself.

At the Central Library percentage increases are interesting. These figures are taken out each year and are used as an indication of the progress of the transfer of emphasis to more serious reading. The figures in the various classes are as under:

General Works	6.9%	increase
Philosophy	32.4%	increase
Religion	3.6%	increase
Sociology	14.1%	increase
Language	19.5%	increase
Science	53.1%	increase
Useful Arts	25.8%	increase
Fine Arts	32.5%	increase
Literature	11.5%	increase
History, Biography and Travel	9.3%	increase
Fiction	1.8%	increase
Junior	6.7%	increase

Practically all the books in the Reference Library are now available for borrowing.

A copy of this report, as of others, is available on loan from the library of the Association.

Bookbinding Prices.

The following notice has been received from Cedric Chivers Ltd.: "In view of the large increases in the cost of materials and overhead expenses, we are regretfully compelled to advance our prices by a further 5%. This will apply to all orders received by us on and after Monday, 15th April, 1940."

Held Over.—Owing to pressure on space, the list of *Reviews and Exchanges*, and conclusion of the article on the Wellington Central Library have been held over until July.

PURCHASE OF BOOKS AND PERIODICALS FROM U.S.A.

The Honorary Secretary is anxious to know what are the *minimum dollar* requirements for 1941 of New Zealand Libraries for their purchases of United States literature. By *minimum* is meant publications without which the work of the Library would be seriously hindered. It is hardly necessary to stress the necessity for reviewing the position at the present time.

Librarians are asked to forward immediately to the Honorary Secretary the information asked for. The published price in the U.S.A. is the basis on which calculations should be made.

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HOSPITAL LIBRARY SERVICE.

By Mary Brown, Assistant on Hospital Duty, Dunedin Public Library.

There will be many who have not actually seen a Hospital Library. Our equipment in Dunedin consists of a room which is shared by the Hospital Hostess (not a very satisfactory arrangement), a cupboard which shelves approximately 400 books and magazines and a book-wagon.

Each day books are specially selected for whichever wards are to be visited—men's wards on Mondays and Thursdays, and women's wards on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Wednesday is a visiting day for the general public.

There are five display shelves on the front of the wagon for books and the two shelves at the back are used for the filing tray and for carrying magazines. The patients usually choose their own material but frequently ask our opinion of what they are selecting. Of course some are more seriously ill and will take no part whatever in the choice of their books. They say, "Oh! Just leave me something nice and light." The most popular books are of course, very light novels. For women: Love stories, a few mystery, and also a few western tales. For men: Mainly western and travel, then mystery, adventure and general fiction. The idea is to take something which is quickly and easily read.

The majority of patients will not take a book with small print. Then again, we occasionally come across a patient who thinks that a book with large print will not sustain him for a sufficient period but this proves no great difficulty as we allow patients to borrow as many books as they desire. A very few of the patients are avid readers and it is not necessary to cater for these in the Hospital Section as we can draw on the whole of the Central Library stock when necessary. It has been suggested that we discover which subjects these patients find interesting and each day take to the Hospital two or three books especially for them. I think it is more necessary to cater for the patient who will probably be in hospital for some months, (and there are really a great number of these) than for the transitory patient. It is absolutely essential that the whole stock be changed frequently. Our Dunedin Hospital Library Service is still in its experimental stages and I think the most outstanding fault is that our books are not changed frequently enough. Patients reading an average of even one book per day must in time find that they have read a good many of the books in stock. Occasionally we come across a patient who finds he has read a whole shelf of the books we are taking round, or we may be greeted with the remark: "Oh, I read all those last time I was in here," none of which is very encouraging.

The issue of non-fiction varies from nil to ten per day which shows that the patients are unable to concentrate on serious reading material. Magazines are popular on the whole. Patients who are very ill will often take an illustrated magazine, such as "Life," "Look," or "Vogue" when they cannot enjoy actual reading. This, too, is when they appreciate magazines such as "Wide World," "Strand," or "Windsor," because they are often too weak to hold a book for any length of time, and the short stories in these magazines occupy their attention for quite a sufficient period in one stretch.

We write the patient's name and the ward on the book ticket and keep a numerical file. It is of course difficult to keep track of all material which is loaned. Our system does not allow of being able to tell at a glance how many books and magazines each patient has and they do not seem to be able to remember. Patients lend the books all round their respective wards and it is impossible to prevent this. New patients coming in may not have anything to read and may borrow from their neighbours until our next visit. Nurses, too, borrow the patients' books, but I think this could and should be stopped. One way this could be carried out is by allowing the nurses to borrow in their own names.

When on hospital duty the assistant must be prepared to search in usually overcrowded lockers and to exchange books among the patients. Some of the Sisters collect books which patients leave in their lockers and these can be reclaimed from the Duty Room at the end of the ward. If a patient cannot remember to whom he loaned his book it is impossible to make a fuss about it, because patients easily become agitated and that calls for black looks from the nurses. Many patients will at first not borrow from the library, but after a few visits they seem to realise that it is an absolutely free service and that the books will be collected again. Patients may often be asleep, but usually leave their books on the top of their lockers to be changed.

They would without much encouragement keep up talking for a much longer time than is at our disposal. They seem to be genuinely interested in the system of lending the books and for the most part are very appreciative of this service.

PUPIL ASSISTANTS IN SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

By Joan W. Rawson, M.A., F.L.A., Country Library Service.

One of the greatest problems confronting the teacher-librarian, at least in New Zealand, is the difficulty of finding sufficient time to devote to the library while still carrying out all the duties imposed upon him by the regular curriculum of the school. Much can be done to alleviate this position if the librarian can arouse the enthusiasm of the pupils, and can organise a working committee who will relieve him of many of the mechanical and routine duties incidental to his work. Moreover, not only can a well-trained and well-organised pupil-committee prove of immense assistance to the librarian, but the sense of ownership fostered by active participation in the running of the library will prove a decisive factor in raising the status of the library within the school. Every department in the school can contribute something, and the more widely the librarian casts his net, the more fruitful will the contacts prove to be.

Training of Pupil Assistants.

When such a scheme is first introduced it may seem to increase the work of the librarian rather than to lighten his task, for he will have to undertake the training of all the pupil assistants; but, if care is taken to see that the original committee is composed of pupils who still have two or more years of school before them, this problem automatically solves itself. In subsequent years, each second-year assistant will be responsible for training a first-year assistant to take over the simpler tasks, thus leaving the librarian free to undertake the more expert work.

A work-book, or instructional manual, should be drawn up for the guidance of pupil assistants, setting out in detail every phase of the work undertaken by them. This manual should take the form of a loose-leaf book, with separate sections devoted to the various branches of the work. There are two advantages attached to the adoption of the loose-leaf form for this work-book. Firstly, it can be kept up-to-date with ease, for any section that needs revising can be altered without affecting any other group of instructions. Secondly, provided that there is a duplicate copy of the work-book, the various sections can be removed by the pupil assistants to guide them in the course of their work, it being clearly understood that all the sections must be replaced in the correct order when the day's work is finished. This instructional manual should be fully and carefully indexed to facilitate ready reference.

Qualifications for Library Work.

In order to ensure that such a system of pupil assistance does not become out of hand, the librarian will need to see that a certain standard is maintained with regard to the qualifications required in pupils who are to be entrusted with library work. Enthusiasm is, of course, a primary requisite, but mere keenness is not sufficient. Dependability is essential for even the simplest duties, while accuracy, neatness, energy, quickness, and—a very important point—legible handwriting, are greatly to be desired.

General Duties.

The next point to be considered is—what duties may legitimately and profitably be assigned to pupil assistants? Naturally, a good deal will depend on the type of school concerned. In primary schools, for instance, the range of duties undertaken by pupils will be very much more restricted than those performed by pupils of secondary and technical schools. However, such tasks as putting away books and periodicals, keeping the books in order on the shelves, assisting the librarian with stocktaking, the issuing and discharging of books, keeping track of overdue books, and collecting fines (where they are charged) can all be performed by intelligent pupils in any type of school, always provided that the work is supervised by the librarian.

Specialized Work.

It is in the secondary schools, particularly those with a technical and commercial section, that there is the greatest scope for the use of pupil assistants. Many of the pupils taking specialized courses can be of great assistance to the school library.

The Art department can be approached with a view to arranging for attractively-painted library posters, neat shelf labels, guides to the classification system, tier guides, library notices, in fact, any type of material that calls for artistic ability and a knowledge of lettering. Art students, too, are probably the best fitted to number and letter the backs of the books, and to mount and label illustrations, maps, etc.

Woodwork students may be entrusted with the making of bulletin-boards, cart-trays, and even shelving for the books, always provided that they can be relied upon to turn out work that conforms exactly to the given specifications.

Senior typewriting students can be trained to make out shelf-list and catalogue cards from copy supplied by the librarian. It cannot be too strongly emphasized, however, that only those students known to be capable of accurate and detailed work should be entrusted with an assignment of this nature. Moreover, these assistants should work under the direct supervision of the librarian, who will of course subject their work to a final searching check, before they are filed away in the catalogue-drawers.

Students from senior English classes might be trained to find out the full names of authors and biographies from such sources as the Dictionary of National Biography, the Oxford Companion to English Literature, the Encyclopaedia Britannica, and so on. This type of work will need to be carefully checked by the librarian, and should be entrusted only to the most reliable of student assistants.

Pupil Assistants and the Librarian.

The wise use of pupil assistants, though it calls for careful handling and constant supervision by the librarian, is a factor of tremendous importance in the development of a school library. The part played by such an organization in raising the status of the library in the school has already been pointed out, while the value of such training to the pupil assistants themselves needs no further stressing. The principal value of their work, however, lies in the fact that it releases the librarian from purely routine duties, and so leaves him free to devote his time to administrative work (such as cataloguing, classification, book selection, etc.), and to the furthering of those personal contacts with pupils, staff and local public libraries, which constitute the ultimate criterion by which the success of any school library is to be judged.

BIBLIOTHERAPY.

By G. Lilian Jeffreys, M.A. (N.Z.), Dip. Lib. (Lond.), F.L.A.,
Canterbury University College.

I have just come out of a private hospital. It was indeed a good one, where I was cared for most expertly and very kindly. Pleasant were the surroundings, the food delicious, the china of delightful pattern—and there was nothing at all to read. I was not seriously ill, though I did need medical care.

I had taken with me Huxley; Ends and means, and Armstrong; King of Arabia, and I regarded those two books with utter distaste and disfavour. Apart from these two, had not the Sister in charge lent me a couple of lighter books, I should have been entirely without recreational literature of any kind. Can anyone think it to be a good thing, a health-giving, recuperative thing, to lie hour after lonely hour in quiet, though comfortable bed, watching shadows on the wall, hearing sick thoughts chase each other round the maze of one's mind.

How many thousand cases must this one isolated instance represent.

In these perhaps over-psychological days, we are all familiar with the axiom of the power of mind over matter, very noticeably so on the negative side. Philosophies, intellectual and spiritual, based on false foundations, lead to unorganised personalities, clouded and bewildered thought, wavering and uncertain actions. If this be true of human reactions in health, how very much more is it true in ill-health.

A sick person, by very reason of his illness, automatically views life with a more or less jaundiced spiritual eye. While he is desperately ill the outside world has little or no meaning. But as soon as his bodily situation is a little improved, and his thoughts are able to engage themselves upon some one topic, it is then that he is in great need of what the Americans call "bibliotherapy." To him there should come the comfort, recreation and cheer of good, easy-to-read well-chosen literature.

The influence of books upon our mental state is amazingly powerful. It is hardly necessary to labour the point with librarians. One might, however, quote the story of the girl in a London hospital. The doctor found that, while her condition was not improving, she was at the same time avidly following the harrowing tale of a serial-story heroine, who was rapidly dying from her own complaint. The doctor wrote to the author, "Does your heroine die in the end?" "Yes," was the reply. "Then for pity's sake make her recover." Which the author obligingly arranged. The doctor's patient also recovered!

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We all know books that have made us feel, either that life in spite of its drawbacks is a splendid venture in eternity, or that existence on this planet is so miserably arranged and disorganised that the sooner we are out of it the better. The latter sort of book should never appear in a hospital. Some of these books have been novels, some biographies, histories or popular works on international affairs. Whatever they be, no one can gainsay their powerful influence upon us, an influence even more potent when we needs must take to bed.

In such a case morbid books, as has been suggested, have deleterious effect upon our mental outlook. And a morbid mental outlook exercises a correspondingly harmful influence on our powers of recovery.

And this is where a well-run Hospital Library service can augment technical therapeutics with its "bibliotherapeutical" aids—a store of cheer and interest to those of us who for shorter or longer periods are held in the white prison of a bed.

In the United States the situation has been tackled with characteristic thoroughness. Hospitals have their own libraries, the larger institutions employ trained hospital librarians. The stocks of books that have a definitely therapeutical value, are selected with great care. Doctors, nurses and walking patients use the library in the most normal manner. Patients who are likely to be inmates for a considerable period and who wish to follow some specific reading course, naturally receive expert guidance. Foreign-born, in like case, are helped in their acquirement of English. Reference work, too, seems to play quite a large part in the librarian's duties. In some institutions the hospital librarian actually consults with the doctors over the "prescription of literature" advisable in certain cases. In addition to the stock circulating daily through the wards, many American hospital libraries possess a semi-private collection of important medical works available only to the staff.

In England the large hospitals have somewhat similar library services. They are not professionally run in the same way as in America, but are organised, not as official departments of the hospitals, but as philanthropical activities by interested outside organisations. Such work, for the most part voluntary, is naturally greatly appreciated.

In New Zealand, however, the situation has not yet been faced seriously by the hospital authorities. Whatever service may be available in any hospital, with the exception of the Dunedin General Hospital, depends entirely on the goodwill of voluntary organisation or, in the small private hospitals, on the forethought or opportunity of the matron. Voluntary effort must never be decried, but more and more must it be directed by people whose trained job it is speedily and efficiently to administer books—the Librarians of the country.

In towns and cities where there is a free municipal library, this should not be difficult. Hospital collections, especially in smaller country towns, could quite easily be administered by some interested and enthusiastic helper, working under the direction of the town librarian. (But if, of course, that small town has no good library and no trained librarian, then the situation needs very specialised treatment).

In towns where there is no free library, and of these unfortunately there is a disgraceful majority in this most democratic country, then it seems that the problem must be solved in some such manner as the following:—A picked collection of books must be somehow gathered together, probably through appeals to charitable, social and religious organisations, this collection to be housed in some central spot.

Someone with a knowledge of library routine should be in charge, and organise a rotating inter-hospital library loan service. Private hospitals need the service as much as others. These Hospital Libraries could belong to the Inter-Library-Loan scheme, and for patients needing special books could use the facilities of that service.

The war has brought added problems into our material and mental lives. It may be pointed out that to try to organise a hospital library service is to concentrate on a non-essential, that energy which might be used for some activity superficially more patriotic. But surely patriotism extends further than the battlefield. Should it not embrace the civilian field of life as well. And war or no war, the General Public, people like you and me, are still going to fall ill, to break limbs, to sustain pain and weakness. During these trying times, more than ever will hospital patients need the comfort, cheer and guidance of good books. That so their time of enforced quiet will send them back into the world of activity, not grieving nor pessimistic because of long hours of brooding loneliness, but helped and strengthened by the silent masters of the mind.

[*N.B.—For fuller discussion of the problem see Jones, E. Kathleen; Hospital libraries. A.L.A., 1939*].

XUM

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY LIBRARY, WELLINGTON.—PAST AND PRESENT.

By J. O. Wilson, A.L.A., General Assembly Library.

PART II.—Concluded.

The fact that the General Assembly Library was predominantly for the use of members of Parliament had its effect on the character of the stock. Though it has a sound classical basis, the Sociology, History and Biography selections are excellent. The Library is also proud of its newspaper collection, which includes many newspapers from the commencement of publishing in New Zealand. Though some of the files are incomplete, this is nevertheless by far the best collection in New Zealand. During the last year over 200 volumes were added.

In addition to purchase there are two other methods of book acquisition. The first is copyright. Under the Act publishers must present to the Library two copies of each book, pamphlet, etc., published in New Zealand. Each year a list containing the authors, titles and prices of these publications is issued and distributed to the chief libraries of the world. The books received under this Act are the basis of the New Zealand collection wherein they are preserved both for present and future use. This collection is strictly reference. The other source is International Exchange. Under agreement with Great Britain, the other Dominions and Colonies, and the United States, the New Zealand Government presents copies of its official publications and in return receives copies of their publications. These are deposited in the General Assembly Library. This section includes debates, gazettes, statutes, Parliamentary papers, etc.—many of the sets going back to the middle of the last century, and certain of the British papers further than this. There is also a complete set of New Zealand official publications.

A most important part of the work of the Library is the supplying of information to Members of Parliament. For this purpose special tools have been developed. A vertical file in which are stored clippings from various newspapers, pamphlets and other ephemeral material. An index to news and other items appearing in the daily newspapers, and another index to articles appearing in magazines is kept. These, as also is the special New Zealand portrait collection, are kept in a special room, known as the Reference Room.

Other phases of the Library's work include the archives, a map collection, the issue of reading matter to Members during recess, and, most important of all to the public, the issue of recess privileges. On the recommendation of a Member of Parliament, privilege holders are allowed to borrow from the Library during recess two books at a time.

Originally on the lines of the private gentleman's library concerned with the classics, the General Assembly has now to deal with all the complex problems of modern government, and is staffed and arranged to meet this need. In common with the Alexander Turnbull Library, and the Country Library Service, it is preparing to fill its part in the National Library of the future with all the extra services that this will entail.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor,
NEW ZEALAND LIBRARIES.

Dear Sir,—

I was pleased to read the thoughtful letter of your correspondent "Interested" in the Bulletin for last month. The letter is well timed and demonstrates the pressing need for the Library Association to formulate systematic training for the profession of librarianship. At each of the last two Conferences of the Association I have endeavoured to get the Association to turn its efforts toward the inauguration of a comprehensive scheme of training which would give the candidate professional status. A fundamental defect in the outline of training proposed by "Interested" is that the possession of two "tickets" would place its possessor at a dead end if he wished to attain the higher positions in the library service. With such qualifications as "assistant librarian" and "qualified librarian" (N.Z.) the unfortunate possessor would find his qualification had no recognition outside his own country. The outlined scheme fails to take any account of already existing facilities of education in New Zealand, and of the long struggle for the recognition of librarianship as a profession which has taken place both in England and America. I believe that the Association would miss a great opportunity, if it failed, in starting a scheme of training for librarianship, to insist

on a basic standard of education less than that prescribed by the N.Z. University entrance examination. Such a standard is insisted on universally by all older associations. With this basis, it is possible for any entrant to the service to become a university graduate, either B.A. or M.A., and so be qualified for the highest positions. We know that the university is anxious to gain new avenues of occupation for its graduates, and I am confident that a working arrangement could be arrived at between the Library Association and the University, so that a qualification of librarian or assistant librarian would have a value enabling its possessor to be recognised the world over.

Last year I submitted for publication in the Bulletin a detailed scheme whereby the University could be linked with the Association. This is still available should you now consider that the subject merits fuller exploration as is suggested in your footnote to "Interested's" letter, and I hope that the correspondence will awaken a dynamic interest in training in librarianship. It is an aspect of the movement which I believe is the most urgent facing public libraries at the present time.

Yours, etc.,

—SYDNEY C. ALLEN.

BOOK LIST—May, 1940.

No annotations are given where titles are sufficiently self-explanatory, or for lighter fiction by well-known authors. All prices shown are published prices.

GENERAL.

Munford, W. A.—Three thousand books for a public library. Grafton.
7/6 1939 016
Basic stock for the small library.

PHILOSOPHY.

Leon, P.—Plato. Nelson. 2/6 1940 184
Concise exposition of Plato's main ideas for the layman.

SOCIOLOGY.

Fyfe, Hamilton.—The illusion of national character. Watts. 8/6 1940 320.1

Meade, J. E.—The economic basis of a durable peace. Allen & Unwin. 6/- 1940 330.94
Advocates an international authority with over-riding powers to secure economic co-ordination.

Neill, A. S.—The problem teacher. H. Jenkins. 5/- 1940 370.1
Stimulating comments on education by the author of "A Dominie's log."

Nicol, J.—Technical schools of New Zealand. N.Z. Council for educational research. 9/-(N.Z.) 1940 378.99
Historical survey.

Wood, F. L. W.—New Zealand in the world. Dept. of internal affairs. 5/-(N.Z.) 1940 327.931
Reviews relations between Britain and New Zealand, and New Zealand's attitude to international affairs.

NATURAL SCIENCE.

Smith, B. Webster.—The world under the sea. Hutchinson. 7/6 1940 590
Readable account of marine life for the general reader.

APPLIED SCIENCE.

Beck, S. E.—Ships, boats and craft. H. Jenkins. Beck. 5/- 1940 656
Over 400 sketches of various types of craft, with short descriptions.

Roe, Sir A.—The world of wings and things. Hurst & Blackett. 7/6 1939 629.13

Sava, G.—A ring at the door. Faber. 8/6 1940 610
More medical reminiscences by the author of "The healing knife."

Trew, Cecil G.—The story of the dog and his uses to mankind. Methuen. 8/6 1940 637.7
Includes dog mythology, biological evolution of the dog, new ways of utilising dogs, etc. Illustrated.

FINE ARTS.

Emanuel, W. & Dash, F. L.—The all-in-one camera book. Focal press. 6/- 1940 770
A book for beginners, covering the essentials of photography in simple non-technical language. Well illustrated.

Gilkison, W. Scott.—Peaks, packs, and mountain tracks. Whitcombe & Tombs. 4/6(N.Z.) 1940 796.5
Experiences of an alpine climber in New Zealand.

LITERATURE.

Duggan, Eileen.—New Zealand poems. Allen & Unwin. 2/- 1940 821

Marriott, J. W., ed.—The best one-act plays of 1939. Harrap. 1940 822.08

TRAVEL.

Bagshawe, T. W.—Two men in the Antarctic. Cambridge Univ. Press. 15/- 1939 919.9
Account of an expedition to Graham Land in 1921 and 1922. Some scientific material, but includes accounts of whaling, bird life, etc., of general interest.

Birkby, C.—Limpopo journey. Muller. 12/6 1939 916.8
Entertaining account of a motor tour from Capetown to the headwaters of the Limpopo, through much back country.

Blain, W.—Home is the sailor. Hurst & Blackett. 12/6 1940 910.4
Experiences of a sea-captain, chiefly in the coastal trade between Penang and Rangoon.

Fullerton, Alice.—To Persia for flowers. Oxford. 10/6 1940 915.5
Intimate account of daily life in a Persian village as lived by two English women botanists.

Keith, Agnes.—Land below the wind. Joseph. 12/6 1939 919.11
Account of life in Borneo by the wife of an English official.

Quaranta, F.—Ethiopia. P. S. King. 7/6 1939 916.3
Account of Italy's treatment of her new dependency, by an Italian official.

Sitwell, Sacheverell.—Mauretania. Warrior, man, and woman. 15/- 1940 916
Travels in North Africa.

BIOGRAPHY.

Bandau, R.—Of no importance. A diary of private life. I. Nicholson. 10/6 1940
Jottings and reflections during the period just before the present war.

Lias, G.—Benes of Czechoslovakia. Allen & Unwin. 8/6 1940
Sympathetic biography.

Partridge, B.—Country lawyer. Harrap. 10/- 1940
Life in a small American country town.

Shanks, E.—Rudyard Kipling; a study in literature and political ideas. Macmillan. 7/6 1940
Sympathetic study of Kipling.

Tuohy, F.—Twelve lances for liberty. Nicholson & Watson. 12/6 1940
Racy biographies of men of the moment. Includes M. Daladier, General Gamelin, Winston Churchill, etc.

Walker-Smith, Derek.—Neville Chamberlain: man of peace. 15/- 1940

Weber-Bauler, L.—From Orient to Occident. Tr. Allen & Unwin. 12/6 1940
Memoirs of a Russian-born doctor, naturalised a Frenchman, but practising in Switzerland.

HISTORY.

Bryant, A. W. M.—Unfinished victory. Macmillan. 8/6 1940 940.5
Reviews the post-war history of Germany, and considers the basis of a just peace.

Cooper, A. Duff.—The second world war. First phase. J. Cape. 10/6 1939 940.53
Reprints the author's speeches and articles during the period between Munich and September, 1939.

Elliston, H. B.—Finland fights. Harrap. 15/- 1940 947.1
American journalist's impressions of Finland at the outbreak of war.

France. Ministere des affaires etrangeres.—The French yellow book. Hutchinson. 3/6 1940 940.53
French version of the origin of the war as expressed in official documents.

Garratt, G. T.—Europe's dance of death. Allen & Unwin. 10/6 1940
Review of the break-up that has been in process in Europe since 1851. Bias is towards the left.

Horrabin, J. F.—An atlas-history of the second great war, v.1, Sept. 1939—Jan. 1940. Nelson. 3/6 1940 940.53
Maps illustrating the underlying geographical and strategical features, with brief comments.

Reed, D.—Nemesis? The story of Otto Strasser. J. Cape. 10/6 1940 943.085
The story of the Black Front, a German organisation which opposes Hitler while sharing many of his views.

Rutherford, J. and Skinner, W. H., eds.—The establishment of the New Plymouth settlement in New Zealand, 1841-43. T. Avery. 8/6(N.Z.) 1940 993.1
The journals, etc., of early settlers.

FICTION.

Carter, R.—He and his. Cape 10/6
Pleasant novel of English in the eighteen-sixties.

Collins, N.—"I shall not want." Gollancz 8/6
Story of a draper's assistant whose material success leads to his spiritual downfall.

Fallada, Hans, pseud.—Iron Gustav. Tr. Putnam 9/6
New novel by the author of "Little man, what now?"

Fabricius, J.—A castle in Carinthia. Collins. 9/6
Experiences of an Austrian baron from the end of last century to the period just before Hitler.

Lewis, Sinclair.—Bethel Merriday. J. Cape. 9/6
Pleasant story of the career of an actress.

Macdonell, A. G.—The crew of the Anaconda. Macmillan 7/6
A thriller. Spying in the present war.

Mackenzie, Compton.—The west wind of love. Chatto & Windus 9/6
Story of the last war by a popular writer.

Morgan, Joan.—Citizen of Westminster. Chapman & Hall. 8/3
Centres round a block of luxury flats in the heart of London.

Rhode, John.—Death on the boat train. Collins. 7/6
Detective story.

Romains, J.—Verdun. Tr. P. Davies. 9/6
The eighth volume of "Men of good will." Brings the story down to the 2nd winter of the first world war. The battle of Verdun is examined in minute detail.

Savile, V.—They come and they go. Constable. 8/6
Written round the varied personalities assembled in a world-famous German sanatorium.

Sholokhov, Mikhail.—The Don flows on. Tr. from the Russian. Putnam. 9/6
By the author of "And Quiet Flows the Don."

Strong, L. A. G.—Sun on the water. Gollancz. 7/6
Short stories by a competent writer.

Young, F. Brett.—Cotswold honey. Heinemann. 8/3
Short stories by a popular writer.